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storm of rain broke over the valley, and next morning the complainants were back again to point out that his refusal to come in at the Bwana's summons had so frightened the rain-maker that he had sent rain next day, and to offer most hearty thanks for the white man's beneficent interference.

Though the Jaluo have good manners on the whole, some of their customs are decidedly the reverse of civilised. In common with the other Nilotic tribes of British East Africa, they draw blood from the living cattle and drink it. The custom, however, has its justification, for in many parts of Kavirondo this is the only method by which the natives can obtain salt. Also the older men are confirmed drunkards and hemp smokers, which causes them to age very quickly and probably shortens the average term of life.

Those who dwell on the shores of the great lake and of the larger rivers are expert fishermen: they catch fish with rod and line, a sunken trawl line, in weirs, by woven grass substitutes for nets, and by spearing them with four-pronged wooden spears which they throw with extraordinary accuracy. They are also keen huntsmen, though of little use out shooting, and possess highly trained dogs which will run down an oribi or hare or find a wounded guinea fowl knocked down by their throwing sticks.

In character they are naturally very honest, except with regard to cattle, a temptation which no East African can withstand. They are extremely jealous of any relations between their women and men of other tribes, nations or colour; but among themselves an unmarried woman who has reached the age of puberty may have as many friends, as they call them, as she likes, provided that they come from another clan; after marriage she must confine her attentions to her husband.

Perhaps their most pleasant trait is their love of fun and laughter: the feeblest joke or the slightest bit of horse-play will set them in roars of laughter. For hospitality and industry they have a well-earned name; they are, in fact, in every way most amenable when treated with a little kindness and consideration. They have a considerable knowledge of blacksmith's work, though the spears which they turn out cannot be compared with those of the Masai for fine work. With the latter tribe, however, they show a well-developed artistic sense, the designs on their shields being generally handsome and well carried out. They are also very fond of music—of a kind: they play upon an eight-stringed harp, which is mainly used to provide an accompaniment to their extempore songs, composed in the heroic or comic vein.

Speaking generally and comparatively they are a peaceful, non-aggressive folk, though the common impression *that they are cowards is* ridiculously wrong: in the writer's small experience of African tribes they have shown themselves better fighters than the much-lauded Swahili, and better policemen than the dreaded Masai; they are certainly more amenable to discipline and less inclined to prefer their own wisdom to that of their officers.

On the other hand they are most painfully litigious: civil cases which arose in

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the time of their grandfathers are constantly brought for hearing, and the complications which ensue would bewilder the most legal mind.

153 The adaptability which they show in learning the lower stages of all kinds of work is a hopeful sign for the future. To the writer's knowledge they are now 463 employed as soldiers, sailors, police, masons, carpenters, sawyers, blacksmiths, gardeners, and boys. In none of these occupations can they be said to excel at present, though at the head-quarters of the Kavirondo Province, Kisumu, the native sergeant instructor is a Jaluo and does his work very efficiently; but, on the other hand, it is only during the last four or five years' time that Kavirondo and the Jaluo have been taken seriously, and for this short time they show a great progress.

153 Combining as they do an undoubted industry and keen trading character with a surprising quickness to learn the lessons of civilisation, *e.g.*, their ready change from trade goods to cash in commercial matters or their almost immediate recognition of the advantages which may be gained by taking their disputes to the Station for settlement, the Jaluo give us every reason to hope that in them we have a valuable subject race, the study and consideration of which will in a very few years bring to the Protectorate Government a great and enduring profit.